Title : Regarding Business transacted during the week ending on 18th August, 2005.

OBSERVATION BY THE SPEAKER

MR. SPEAKER: I have some business of my own.

Hon. Members, for your information, I want to briefly recapitulate the main items of business transacted by the House during the last week.

Out of the 59 Starred Questions admitted, only 17 could be answered orally. Replies to the remaining Starred Questions along with the replies to 571 Unstarred Questions were laid on the Table.

During the period, as many as 63 matters of urgent public importance were raised after the Question Hour. Also, 35 matters were raised under Rule 377.

The House also took up 5 Calling Attention matters in 3 days : (1) "situation arising out of devastating fire that broke out in Bombay High Oil Platform of ONGC on 27 July, 2005 resulting in loss of lives and property worth crores of rupees", raised by Shri Mohan Rawle; (2) "situation arising out of dilapidated condition of National Highways in Bihar", raised by Shri Raghunath Jha; (3) "need for a suitable legislation providing for reservation to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes in all the Higher Educational Institutions recognised/aided by the Government and Self-Financing Institutions of the country in accordance with the Constitutional provision on the reservation", raised by Shri A. Krishnaswamy; (4) "need to expedite the approval of Kalasa and Banduri Nala Projects, tributaries to river Mahadayi, in Karnataka in order to solve the acute drinking water problem in the State", raised by Shri Ananth Kumar, and (5) "situation arising out of shortage of LPG in the country", raised by Shri N.N. Krishnadas.

As regards the legislative business, three Bills were introduced in the House. The House discussed the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2005, as passed by Rajya Sabha moved by Shri Shriprakash Jaiswal, for about 2 hours and 11 minutes before it was passed.

The House also discussed the Payment of Wages (Amendment) Bill, 2004, as passed by Rajya Sabha, moved by Shri K. Chandrasekhar Rao, for 3 hours and 07 minutes before the Bill, as amended, was passed.

Besides, the House discussed the National Rural Employment Guarantee Bill, 2004, moved by Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, for 3 hours and 53 minutes. The discussion on the Bill was not concluded.

The House also took up a Short Duration Discussion under Rule 193 regarding "rise in prices of essential commodities including hike in petroleum prices", raised by Shri Avinash Rai Khanna on 16th August, 2005 for 1 hour and 42 minutes. The discussion remained inconclusive.

The Departmentally Related Standing Committees presented two Reports to the House.

The House sat late for as many as 2 hours and 48 minutes to transact essential items of business, out of which 1 hour and 59 minutes were spent on raising matters of urgent public importance after the normal business of the House was over. I again compliment those hon. Members who remained here to raise important issues after the normal business.

As there was no time loss due to interruptions and forced adjournments during the week, I wish to convey my thanks to the hon. Members for extending their cooperation to me in conducting the proceedings of the House. I am sorry, the record is spoiled today.

14.06 hrs.